

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01469 301526Z

54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 301442Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5764

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV WQWUO

USMISSION USUN

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIETS NUDGE SYRIA ON DISENGAGEMENT

1. SUMMARY. AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA COMMENTARY  
JANUARY 30 (BY "COMMENTATOR") UPDATING PICTURE ON  
STATE OF PLAY IN ME SUGGESTS THAT FAILURE OF SYRIA  
TO MOVE ON DISENGAGEMENT IS WEAKENING ARAB UNITY.  
(SEPTTEL REPORTS THAT BREZHNEV HAVANA SPEECH ALSO  
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01469 301526Z

CONTAINS IMPLICIT CRITICISM OF SYRIAN NON-INVOLVEMENT.)

PRAVDA ARTICLE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO CREATION OF PRESENT ME SITUATION FAVORING ARABS. IT SAYS THAT, EVEN IN CIRCLES PROTECTING ISRAEL (READ U.S.), OPINION INCREASINGLY FAVORS SETTLEMENT. COMMENTARY IGNORES U.S. ROLE IN ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT, AND REASSERTS THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPORTANT IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY RAPID MOVEMENT ON NEXT STEPS TOWARD SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA NOTES THAT SYRIA IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN GENEVA CONFERENCE EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL OCCUPIED SYRIAN TERRITORY IN 1967 AND 1973. QUESTION OF RETURN OF SYRIAN TERRITORIES, ARTICLE GOES ON, IS JUST AS ACUTE AS GENERAL QUESTION OF RETURNING ALL ARAB TERRITORIES, AND PROBLEM OF DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AS FIRST STEP IN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL DIRECTLY INVOLVES SYRIA. THIS IS THE MORE IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND, COMMENT ASSERTS, AS ISRAELI RULING CIRCLES AND IMPERIALIST REACTION TENACIOUSLY PURSUE A LINE DIRECTED AT WEAKENING ARAB UNITY.

3. REMAINDER OF COMMENTARY UPDATES LINE ON ME TO ACCOUNT FOR AGREEMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. AUTHOR REAFFIRMS POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON ME PROSPECTS. HE STRESSES MAJOR ROLE SOVIETS PLAYED IN SUPPORT OF ARAB CONDUCT OF ME WAR VIA MILITARY AID, IN ARRANGEMENT OF CEASEFIRE AND PASSAGE OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS FAVORING ARABS, IN PROMOTION OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE TO ISOLATE ISRAEL, AND IN ESTABLISHMENT OF MEPC. AND HE QUOTES BREZHNEV OCTOBER ASSERTION THAT USSR IS READY TO PARTICIPATE IN APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES.

4. CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER LINE ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT, COMMENTARY IGNORES U.S. ROLE IN NEGOTIATING ACCORD AND MAINTAINS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BECAUSE OF UNSC RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FOR WHICH SOVIETS WAGED ACTIVE POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC STRUGGLE. NOTING ISRAEL HAS TRIED TO FREEZE THE CONFLICT AND HOLD UP SETTLEMENT WITH PARTIAL MEASURES, AUTHOR CONCLUDES THAT POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF AGREEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 01469 301526Z

MENT DEPENDS ON ITS LINK WITH TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND GUARANTEEING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

5. COMMENT: PRAVDA'S TRUMPETING OF ACTIVE SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESS OF ARAB CAUSE, COMBINED WITH CONDITIONAL, GRUDGING APPROVAL OF DISENGAGEMENT AND IGNORING OF U.S. ROLE, ADDS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS REMAIN SENSITIVE OVER RECENT U.S. SOLO SUCCESS

IN CAIRO. SURFACING OF NONE-TOO-SUBTLE SUGGESTION  
THAT SYRIAN ABSENCE FROM GENEVA MAY BE SERVING ANTI-ARAB  
INTERESTS IS IN LINE WITH OTHER INDICATINGS THAT SOVIETS  
ARE COUNSELING THAT SYRIA SHOULD MOVE TOWARD INVOLVE-  
MENT, BUT PROVIDES NO CLUE AS TO HOW THEY WOULD AVOID  
BEING LEFT ON THE SIDELINES IF AND WHEN ISRAELI-SYRIAN  
DISENGAGEMENT TALKS EMERGE.DUBS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMISTICE, PEACE PLANS, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, MU TUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIETS NUDGE SYRIA ON DISENGAGEMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, MARR, UR, XF, (BREZHNEV)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005